California Weather-Hydro Conditions during January 2012

As of January 31, statewide hydrologic conditions were as follows: precipitation, 60 percent of average to date; runoff, 40 percent of average to date; snow water equivalent, 35 percent of average for the date (20 percent of the April 1 average); and reservoir storage, 110 percent of average for the date. Sacramento River Region unimpaired runoff observed through January 31, 2012 was about 2.3 million acre-feet (MAF), which is about 41 percent of average. For comparison, on January 31, 2011, the observed Sacramento River Region unimpaired runoff through that date was about 6.2 MAF, or about 108 percent of average.

Precipitation in January, for most regions of California, was below normal. On January 31, the Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index Water Year total was 14.5 inches, which is about 54 percent of the seasonal average to date and 29 percent of an average water year (50.0 inches). During January, the total precipitation for the 8-Stations was 7.6 inches, which is about 84 percent of the monthly average. Last year on January 31, the seasonal total for the 8-Stations was 33.9 inches, or about 127 percent of average for the date.

On January 31, the San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Index Water Year total was 10.1 inches, which is about 49 percent of the seasonal average to date and 25 percent of an average water year (40.8 inches). During January, the total precipitation for the 5-Stations was 6.1 inches, which is about 80 percent of the monthly average. Last year on January 31, the seasonal total for the 5-Stations to date was 35.0 inches, or about 170 percent of average for the date.

Selected Cities Precipitation Accumulation as of 01/31/2012 (National Weather Service Water Year: July through June)					
City	Jul 1 to Date 2011 - 2012 (in inches)	% Avg	Jul 1 to Date 2010 - 2011 (in inches)	% Avg	% Avg "Water Year" Jul 1 to Jun 30 2011- 2012
Eureka	18.34	78	22.84	97	45
Redding	12.12	61	17.51	89	35
Sacramento	4.78	47	11.06	108	26
San Francisco	6.05	44	13.23	97	26
Fresno	2.95	50	9.87	169	26
Bakersfield	1.75	54	7.65	236	27
Los Angeles	4.19	62	11.79	175	33
San Diego	4.97	94	8.41	159	48

Key Reservoir Storage (1,000 AF) as of 01/31/2012								
Reservoir	River	Storage	Avg Storage	% Average	Capacity	% Capacity	Flood Control Encroachment	Total Space Available
Trinity Lake	Trinity	1,956	1,763	111	2,448	80	---	492
Shasta Lake	Sacramento	3,107	3,133	99	4,552	68	-721	1,445
Lake Oroville	Feather	2,545	2,384	107	3,538	72	-552	993
New Bullards Bar Res	Yuba	649	581	112	966	67	-147	317
Folsom Lake	American	413	516	80	977	42	-164	564
New Melones Res	Stanislaus	1,972	1,392	142	2,420	82	2	448
Don Pedro Res	Tuolumne	1,526	1,385	110	2,030	75	-164	504
Lake McClure	Merced	662	500	132	1,025	65	-12	363
Millerton Lake	San Joaquin	317	340	93	520	61	-100	203
Pine Flat Res	Kings	584	478	122	1,000	58	-46	416
Isabella	Kern	171	169	101	568	30	1	397
San Luis Res	(Offstream)	1,938	1,626	119	2,039	95	---	101

The latest National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center (CPC) long-range, 1-month precipitation outlook for February 2012, issued January 31, 2012, suggests below average precipitation for almost all of California. The outlook suggests no tendency for above or below average rainfall for the extreme northeastern portion of the State.